

The Belchamp Rural District

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1918.

Population 1911, 4676 ; 1917, 2677 ; Number of Parishes, 17.

Acreage, 26,500.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1101. Average Number of Persons per house, 3.3.

Occupation of Inhabitants entirely Agricultural.

The following vital statistics are compiled from the returns made by the Registrar :

Births. There were **50** births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of **13.6** per 1000 of the population. The births and birth-rates in this district during the previous seven years were :—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Births ...	84	84	74	87	71	68	40	50
Birth-rate ...	17.9	17.9	15.8	18.5	15.1	14.5	10.8	13.6

Deaths. The number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was **58**, to which **15** deaths belonging to the district occurring in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, and elsewhere have to be added, making the total deaths **73**, equivalent to a death-rate of **19.6** per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were :—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Deaths registered ...	62	55	53	52	67	40	48	58
Deaths belonging to the district	72	67	63	64	78	50	65	73
Death-rate ...	15.3	14.2	13.4	13.4	16.6	10.7	15.0	19.6

Among the deaths were 24 over the age of 75 years.

Infantile Mortality. There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

Zymotic Mortality. There were 2 deaths from whooping cough and 2 from pneumonic influenza.

Mortality from other causes. There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, from cancer 8, from bronchitis and pneumonia 6.

Infectious Diseases Notified.

Scarlet Fever. There were 3 cases in the Parish of Bulmer and 1 in Belchamp St. Paul's. Origin doubtful. Isolated in home.

Diphtheria. Two cases occurred : one a girl in Parish of Lamarsh, origin could not be traced ; and one a soldier on leave, who was removed to Colchester Infectious Hospital.

Measles. 26 cases were notified, chiefly in the Parish of Walter Belchamp, where the school had to be closed.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Nine cases notified. Two were removed to Black Notley Sanatorium. There were 5 deaths, 3 of which had been notified in previous years. All the houses were afterwards disinfected.

Infectious Diseases Non-Notifiable.

Whooping Cough. This along with bad colds in Foxearth school obliged its closure ; also in Gestingthorpe school, which also had to be closed. One death occurred.

Influenza. This serious disease was not so prevalent as in the neighbouring districts. Two deaths occurred from the pneumonia complication. The following schools had to be closed owing to influenza and bad colds affecting the children—Borley, Gestingthorpe, Belchamp St. Pauls, and Henny. Leaflets of advice on the precautions to be taken were generally distributed, also eucalyptus oil to the schools. In some parishes menthol spray was used in the schools with much success.

Rat Crusade.

The Council have asked the County Council to put their orders into force.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. S. Allpress.

Housing of the Working Classes. The following are details of the work done under Part I. of Housing, &c., Act, 1909 :—

1.	The number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act	21
2.	The number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
3.	The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	0
4.	The number of closing orders made	0
5.	The number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without making closing orders	14
6.	The number of dwelling houses which after the making of the closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	0
7.	The number of dwelling houses demolished after the making of closing orders	0
8.	„ „ voluntarily demolished	2
9.	„ „ now being repaired	5

New Houses. Forty are to be erected. The Parish Councils are being consulted as to suitable sites.

General Sanitation.

The number of nuisances remedied	47
Houses disinfected	11
Overcrowding abated	1
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	22
Slaughter Houses, Factories, and Workshops inspected	21

Water Supply.

This was well maintained during the year. Nineteen samples of water analysed, 2 impure and being remedied. A private well of pure water has been handed to the Council for public use in Belchamp St. Pauls. Systematic as well as special inspections have been strictly carried out.

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Medical Officer of Health,